

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-56 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 57 (NEW): A bicycle crank axle adapted to be rotatably supported within a bottom bracket of a bicycle frame for supporting a bicycle crank arm, wherein the crank axle comprises:
an axle body having first and second end portions;
a plurality of first splines disposed at the first end portion of the axle body;
a plurality of second splines disposed at the second end portion of the axle body; and
a projection extending radially outwardly from the first end portion of the axle body, wherein the projection is structured to abut against a lateral outer surface of the bicycle crank arm to prevent the bicycle crank arm from moving axially outward;

wherein the plurality of first splines extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body and are dimensioned for engaging a splined surface of the bicycle crank arm; and

wherein the plurality of second splines do not extend radially outwardly relative to the outer peripheral surface of the axle body.

CLAIM 58 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 57 wherein the plurality of first splines are disposed axially inwardly of the projection.

CLAIM 59 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 58 wherein the plurality of first splines are located in close proximity to the projection.

CLAIM 60 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 59 wherein the plurality of first splines are located directly adjacent to the projection.

CLAIM 61 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 57 wherein the second end portion of the axle body includes a threaded opening.

CLAIM 62 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 57 wherein the plurality of second splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body located axially inwardly of the plurality of second splines.

CLAIM 63 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 57 wherein the projection extends circumferentially along the axle body.

CLAIM 64 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 63 wherein the projection extends completely around the axle body.

CLAIM 65 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 57 wherein the axle body is dimensioned so that the crank arm that abuts against the projection is mounted to the projection by passing the second end portion of the axle body through the crank arm and passing the axle body through the crank arm until the crank arm is mounted to the plurality of first splines.